GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3874
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2005
CULTIVATION OF COCONUT AND GROUNDNUT
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area under cultivation of coconut and groundnut in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether there is a vast scope to increase the area under said crops cultivation to contain its price rise in the State;

(c) if so, the steps taken to bring additional areas under said cultivation during the last three years;

(d) whether the central assistance has been extended for the same in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): As per the available data for 2003-04, an area of 3.68 lakh ha. of coconut and 5.92 lakh ha. of groundnut is under cultivation in Tamil Nadu.

(b) to (e): Yes, Sir. The details of the schemes implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and the assistance provided for cultivation of coconut and groundnut in Tami Nadu are as under:

Coconut: Coconut Development Board under the Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a scheme for expansion of area under coconut in Tamil Nadu by extending incentive subsidy @ Rs.8000/- ha. for taking up new plantations of coconut. An additional area of 729.33 ha. has been brought under coconut in Tamil Nadu by providing assistance of Rs.98.083 lakhs as subsidy to the coconut farmers.

The Board is also implementing programmes for production and distribution of quality seedlings of desired cultivars and hybrids required for taking up new plantations of coconut. An amount of Rs.33.625 lakhs was released to the State Government for production and distribution of 2.90 lakh T x D hybrid seedlings during last three years. The Board has also released an amount of Rs.37.50 lakhs during the year 2004-05 for the production of 3 lakh coconut seedlings under the scheme, `Establishment of Regional Coconut Nurseries` as a special case in view of the huge demand of coconut seedlings for taking up new plantations of coconut.

Under the scheme for promoting seedling production in private sector by establishing nucleus seed garden and coconut nurseries, financial assistance of Rs.33.743 lakhs was provided to farmers for establishment of four seed gardens and 11 coconut nurseries in the State during the last three years.

Groundnut: Under the Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) of Ministry of Agriculture, which was in implementation in 28 States including Tamil Nadu upto the year 2003-04, assistance was provided for various inputs in order to encourage the farmers to undertake Oilseeds cultivation including Groundnut on a large scale.

From the year 2004-05, Ministry is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) in 14 major oilseeds growing States including Tamil Nadu for increasing production and productivity of Oilseeds crops including Groundnut. Under the scheme, assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipments, weedicides, supply of rhyzobium/phosphate solublising bacteria, distribution of gypsum/pyrite/lime/dolomite, distribution of sprinkler sets and water carrying pipes, publicity etc. to encourage farmers to grow Oilseeds including Groundnut. In order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are organized through State Department of Agriculture and Front Line Demonstrations through ICAR.

Besides, Government of India has been announcing a significant increase in the Minimum Support Price of Oilseed Crops including Groundnut every year as compared to other crops such as rice and wheat so as to encourage the farmers to undertake cultivation of these crops on a large scale. The financial assistance provided to Tamil Nadu under the Centrally Sponsored OPP and ISOPOM during the period 2002-03 to 2004-05 is as under:

Year	Rs. in lakhs
2002-03	420.00
2003-04	347.00
2004-05	990.00#

Assistance provided for development of oilseeds, pulses, oil palm and maize.